

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus which is selectably tunable to a plurality of frequencies, said apparatus comprising:

a first feedback device;

a second feedback device; and

an electronic processor circuit to communicate with said first feedback device and with said second feedback device, and to selectively provide a first signal to said first feedback device and to said second feedback device.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said first feedback device comprises a display device.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said second feedback device comprises an audio synthesizer.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said electronic processor circuit provides the first signal to said second feedback device when said first feedback device malfunctions.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said second feedback device generates an audible signal corresponding to a frequency at which said apparatus is currently tuned.

6. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus comprises a navigation system.

7. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus comprises a communications system.

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8. An apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said apparatus comprises a navigation and communications system.

9. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said electronic processor circuit provides the first signal to both said first feedback device and to said second feedback device when said first feedback device malfunctions.

10. An apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the first signal represents a frequency at which said apparatus is currently tuned.

11. A system receptive to selective tuning to particular frequencies, said system comprising:

a display device;

an audio synthesizer; and

a controller in communication with said display device and said audio synthesizer, wherein said controller communicates with said audio synthesizer when a malfunction is detected with respect to said display device.

12. A system according to claim 11, wherein said controller comprises an electronic processor circuit.

13. A system according to claim 11, wherein said audio synthesizer audibly synthesizes a frequency at which said system is currently tuned.

14. A system according to claim 11, wherein said system comprises a navigation system.

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15. A system according to claim 11, wherein said system comprises a communications system.

16. A system according to claim 11, wherein said system comprises a navigation and communications system.

17. An apparatus comprising:

a radio which is selectably tuned to particular frequencies; and

a voice synthesis circuit communicating with said radio, said radio outputting a first signal to said voice synthesis circuit, wherein the first signal represents a frequency at which said radio is currently tuned, and wherein said voice synthesis circuit produces a second signal representing an audible announcement of the frequency.

18. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein the second signal is output to a speaker.

19. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said voice synthesis circuit comprises an output device and said second signal communicates with said output device.

20. An apparatus according to claim 19, wherein said output device comprises a speaker.

21. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said radio comprises a communications system.

22. An apparatus according to claim 17, wherein said radio comprises a navigational system.

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23. An apparatus adapted to be selectively tuned to individual frequencies, said apparatus communicating with an audio synthesizer and a display device, said apparatus comprising:

a processor which: i) detects a first operating mode; ii) tunes the apparatus to a predetermined frequency, if the first operating mode is detected; iii) controls the audio synthesizer to generate an audio announcement of a frequency at which the apparatus is currently tuned, if the first operating mode is detected; and iv) controls the display device to display a frequency at which the apparatus is currently tuned, if the first operating mode is not detected.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein said processor programs the audio synthesizer, if the first operating mode is detected.

25. The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said processor tunes the radio to a selected frequency.

26. The apparatus according to claim 25, wherein after tuning the radio, said processor waits for the frequency to change.

27. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the first operating mode corresponds to a failure of the display device.

28. A method of providing feedback of a selected setting in a system including a signal receiving device, said method comprising the steps of:

visually presenting the selected setting during a first mode; and

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audibly presenting the selected setting during a second mode.

29. A method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of determining the termination of the first mode.

30. A method according to claim 28, further comprising the step of detecting a failure which initiates the second mode.

31. A method according to claim 28, wherein the selected setting comprises a frequency.

32. A method of providing information regarding a system, the system adapted to receive signals over a range of frequencies and adapted to tune to individual frequencies within the range, said method comprising the steps of:

tuning the system to a first frequency;
visually displaying the first frequency during a first mode of operation; and
audibly announcing the first frequency during a second mode of operation.

33. The method according to claim 32, further comprising the steps of detecting a failure in the system, and then entering the second mode of operation.

34. A method according to claim 33, wherein upon entering the second mode of operation, said method further comprises the steps of resetting the system to a predetermined frequency, and audibly announcing the predetermined frequency.

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35. A method according to claim 32, further comprising the step of audibly announcing the first frequency during the first mode of operation.

36. A method according to claim 32, wherein said system comprises any one of a navigation system, a communications system and a navigation/communications system.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein said system is for use in an aircraft.

38. Computer executable code stored on a computer readable medium, the code to provide information regarding a system, the system adapted to receive signals over a range of frequencies and adapted to tune to individual frequencies within the range, said code comprising code to:

tune the system to a first frequency;
visually display the first frequency during a first mode of operation; and
audibly announce the first frequency during a second mode of operation.

39. Computer executable code stored on a computer readable medium, said code to provide feedback of a selected setting in a system including a signal receiving device, said code comprising code to:

visually present the selected setting during a first mode; and
audibly present the selected setting during a second mode.

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40. A system receptive to selective tuning at particular frequencies, said system comprising:
means for displaying;
means for audio synthesizing a frequency signal; and
means for controlling communication with said displaying means and said audio synthesizing means, wherein said control means communicates with said audio synthesizing means when a malfunction is detected with respect to said displaying means.

41. An apparatus which is selectably tunable to a plurality of frequencies, said apparatus comprising:
first means for providing feedback;
second means for providing feedback; and
means for selectively providing a first signal to said first feedback means and to said second feedback means.

42. Computer executable software code stored on a computer readable medium, the code for use with an apparatus adapted to be selectively tuned to individual frequencies, the apparatus communicating with an audio synthesizer and a display device, said code comprising code to:

detect a first operating mode;
tune the apparatus to a predetermined frequency, if the first operating mode is detected;
control the audio synthesizer to generate an audio announcement of a frequency at which the apparatus is currently tuned, if the first operating mode is detected; and
control the display device to display a frequency at which the apparatus is currently tuned, if the first operating mode is not detected.

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